

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 244 662

JC 840 244

AUTHOR Hicks, Warren B.
TITLE Survey on the Effects of State Budget Cuts on Community College Learning Resource Centers: A Narrative Survey.
PUB DATE 84
NOTE 13p.; Paper presented at the Annual Northern and Southern California Meetings of the Learning Resources Association of California Community Colleges (1984).
PUB TYPE Speeches/Conference Papers (150) -- Reports - Research/Technical (143)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Budgeting; College Planning; *Community Colleges; *Learning Resources Centers; Reduction in Force; *Retrenchment; State Surveys; Two Year Colleges
IDENTIFIERS *California

ABSTRACT

A study was conducted by the Learning Resources Association of California Community Colleges to determine the effects of state budget cuts on the learning resources centers (LRC's) in the state. In August 1983, a questionnaire was mailed to all 106 California community colleges, requesting information on personnel, budget, and service cuts; budget ideas; long-range plans and directions; and funding mechanisms. Study findings, based on responses from 70 (66%) of the institutions, included the following: (1) 86% of the respondents reported reductions in personnel, representing a total loss of 209 full-time positions or 10% to 15% of the LRC workforce; (2) 90% of the respondents reported budget cuts, with the average reduction being 56%; (3) 39% reported they had reduced services, with the average cut being 8.7 hours per week; (4) responses emphasized strong support for security in LRC budgets, with 83% of the respondents favoring a mandated state formula and 91% favoring a budget standard of 5% to 7% of the institutional budget for LRC operations; and (5) the largest reductions in budget items were for library equipment, audiovisual materials, and television equipment. Respondents' suggestions for budget ideas to deal with cutbacks, views on the long-range effects of budget cuts on LRC's, and perceptions of long-range directions are included in the report. (HB)

* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *

ED244662

SURVEY ON THE EFFECTS OF STATE BUDGET CUTS
ON COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTERS

A Narrative Survey

by

Warren B. Hicks
Past Executive Director
of the
Learning Resources Association of
California Community Colleges

Paper presented at the annual meetings of the
Learning Resources Association of
California Community Colleges
1984

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS
MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Warren Hicks

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)

- ☐ This document has been reproduced as
received from the person or organization
originating it.
☒ Minor changes have been made to improve
reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this docu-
ment do not necessarily represent official NIE
position or policy.

JC 840 244

SURVEY ON THE EFFECTS OF STATE BUDGET CUTS ON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTERS

A NARRATIVE SURVEY
by
Warren B. Hicks
Past Executive Director LRACCC

Interest in a survey to determine the effects and trends of State Budget cuts on the Learning Resource Centers of California was expressed to the LRACCC Board of Directors. The Board approved the survey following the precedent set by Terry Kastanis' 1978 effort on the effects of Proposition 13.

The survey on State Budget cuts was mailed out in August 1983 with a follow-up in September. The return was a very strong 66 percent, with 70 returns from 106 Community Colleges. The survey covered eight areas: Personnel, Budget, Services, Budget Ideas, Long Range Plans, Long Range Directions, Legislated State Formula, and Percentage as a Budget Standard.

The results of survey present a grim picture. In summary, the picture shows 86 percent of the returns reported a loss of 209 full-time personnel or 10-15 percent of the LRC work force. On budget, 90 percent reported cuts with an average reduction of 56 percent. Services show that the LRC's are absorbing the deep personnel and budget cuts with only 39 percent reporting reductions with an average cut of 9 hours per week. The returns emphasized strong support for security in budgets with 83 percent favoring a mandated state formula and 91 percent favoring a budget standard of 5-7 percent of the institutional budget for LRC operations.

There were a number of unique and interesting items listed on the questions dealing with Budget Ideas, Long Range Plans and Long Range Directions. These are itemized in the accompanying material for your perusal. Detailed statistics are also to be found in the following material on the remaining areas of Personnel, Budget, Services. Details show a loss of over 81 full-time equivalent librarians; average book budget reduction of 47 percent; and little effect on week-end hours as they had already been reduced but with drastic reductions in Friday hours.

The long range effects brought out by the survey are that it could take years to recover quality of service and variety of materials. There is also a loss of substantial academic standards and endangerment of accreditation.

LRACCC SURVEY

EFFECTS OF STATE BUDGET REDUCTIONS

ON

PERSONNEL

BUDGET

SERVICES

BUDGET IDEAS

LONG RANGE PLANS

LONG RANGE DIRECTIONS

LEGISLATED STATE FORMULA

PERCENTAGE AS A BUDGET STANDARD

A 66% RETURN

WITH

70 RETURNS FROM 106 COMMUNITY COLLEGES

(69 QUESTIONNAIRES AND ONE LETTER)

LRACCC SURVEY
EFFECTS OF STATE BUDGET REDUCTIONS

SUMMARY

Personnel (86%)	Loss of 209 Full Time Personnel
Budget (90%)	Average Budget Reduction of 56%
Services (39%)	Average Reduction 9 Hours Per Week
State Formula	Favored by 83%
Budget Standard	Favored by 91%

PERSONNEL

59 Reductions	86%
10 No Reductions	14%

Librarians

Full Time	55 3/4	
Part Time	<u>25 1/2</u>	(Full Time Equiv.)
Total	81 1/4	(Full Time Equiv.)

<u>Clerical</u>	54 1/2
-----------------	--------

<u>Technician</u>	<u>55</u>
Total	109 1/2

<u>Management</u>	18 1/2
-------------------	--------

GRAND	
TOTAL	<u>209.25</u> Full Time Personnel

A guess would be approximately 1/3 of LRC Work Force lost.

BUDGET

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AVERAGE REDUCTION BY PERCENT</u>
Books	47
Periodicals	27
Supplies	37
AV Maintenance	38
Supp. (Other)	20
Microfilm	50
Media	59
16 MM	75
Film Rental	53
Graphics and Printing	51
Library Equipment	97
AV Equipment	95
TV Equipment	94
Other	35
Highest percent	97
Lowest percent	20
Average	56
<u>Average (Except equipment)</u>	<u>45</u>
62 Reductions	90%
7 No reductions	10%

SERVICES

HOURS CHANGED

<u>Same</u>	30	44%
<u>Reduction</u>	27	39%
<u>No Answer</u>	12	17%

Average cut of 8.7 hours per week.

Fridays cut drastically.

Weekends

<u>Reduction</u>	19	28% - All Hours
<u>Same</u>	6	9%
<u>Increase</u>	1	1%
<u>No Answer</u>	43	62%

Workloads

Too depressed to describe.

Curtailed circulation service.

25% absorbed by librarian.

Para-professional doing reference work.

Closed all inter-sessions and vacation periods.

Increased classified assignments.

LEGISLATED STATE FORMULA

83% Favored

7% Favored Local Control

PERCENTAGE AS A BUDGET STANDARD

91% Favored

77% Favored a percentage of 5 - 7%

14% Favored a general written guideline

LRACCC SURVEY ON
EFFECTS OF STATE BUDGET CUTS ON
LEARNING RESOURCES

BUDGET IDEAS

LONG RANGE EFFECTS ON LRC

LONG RANGE DIRECTIONS FOR LRC

BUDGET IDEAS

1. Do not absorb cuts and operate as usual
2. Keep fighting
3. Substitute microfilm for paper periodical subscriptions
4. Eliminate steps in overdue procedures
5. Apply for private funding for books
6. Question any procedure that hasn't changed in the past five years-
Streamline to save labor or supply intensive steps
7. Centralize services to save funds
8. Publish "Gift Catalog" whereby local individuals or groups may
subsidize or purchase items
9. Have local businesses "sponsor" a periodical subscription-
Place small "ad" or acknowledgment in front of clear plastic holder
10. Apply zero based budgeting
11. Implement faculty pressure about less LRC services
12. Employ fund raising events - raised \$45,000 since 1979 by direct
mail and other events - friends of the
library bought copy machine (nets \$6,000
annually)
13. Stop circulating unbound periodicals
14. Conduct less frequent inventories of books
15. Reorganize services
16. Have paraprofessional assume supervisory responsibility
17. Be visible to your Board of Trustees - attend meetings - speak out for
the LRC - Board restored \$6,000 to Book Budget
18. Order more paperbound books
19. Have a "Buy-a-Book" campaign - request donations of \$25.00 or multiples
thereof - raised approximately \$5,400.
20. Contract out all graphic services
21. Have faculty volunteers provide certificated site-line supervision to
free librarians for work done by lost library staff
22. Cross-train in all areas
23. Solicit alumni to purchase one book
24. Provide faculty book funds based on point system created by library use
25. Reassign librarians to primarily reference duty
26. Increase fines and replacement fees
27. Obtain financial help from student government
28. Have students make appointments for afternoon hours if depth assistance
is needed

(2)

LONG RANGE EFFECTS OF BUDGET CUTS ON LRC

1. 3-year period of no-growth
2. Tuition will come
3. We will become smaller
4. Weaker vocational programs
5. More scientific management
6. Certificated and classified positions eliminated will require cuts in services
7. More innovative and entrepreneurial in generating new funds
8. Program cuts
9. Reduction of the total academic experience
10. Cuts will bring obsolescence
11. Reduced course offerings
12. Book collection is dying
13. Instructional load increased by 38%
14. Greater dependence on private funds - more work to obtain them
15. Poorly maintained buildings and grounds
16. Staff morale suffers
17. Cannot maintain equipment
18. We are in a critical state - must have a regular dependable base of funding
19. Shorter hours, loss of service
20. Loss of substantial academic standards and endangerment of accreditation
21. Years to recover quality of service and variety of materials
22. Severe effect on long-range collection development

(3)

LONG RANGE DIRECTIONS FOR LRC

1. Utilize more computer applications
2. Emphasis on state or federal subsidized programs to the detriment of traditional library services
3. Overcome colossal morale problems
4. Delivery courses to off-campus students
5. Keep status quo at best
6. Maintain smaller staffs
7. Reduce services and hours
8. Drive for private funding
9. Automation of LRC functions
10. Student access to micro-computers
11. Increased cooperation with other libraries and information services
12. More charge-back systems to recover costs
13. Stop supporting certain areas of the curriculum
14. Centralize acquisitions and cataloging
15. Continual remedial emphasis
16. Becoming more a study hall than a library
17. Inability to maintain and update material collection
18. We will be fortunate if we exist in 5 years
19. Downward - possible closing
20. Minimum standards and effective accreditation procedures
21. Consolidation with other support services

WBH/sr
1/18/84

JALC® CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGES
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

JUL 20 1984

8118 Math-Sciences Building
Los Angeles, California 90024